



# forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2083/AM2

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Mr Dick Berlijn  
Boitumelo Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 785553  
**SANDTON**  
2146

Telephone Number: (011) 500 3680  
Email Address: [berlijn@subsolar.co.za](mailto:berlijn@subsolar.co.za)

## PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Berlijn

### AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 12 APRIL 2022 FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 150 MWac BOITUMELO SOLAR POWER PLANT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 4 OF THE FARM HOUTHAAALDOORNS 2, WITHIN THE DITSOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THENORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 12 April 2022, the amendment to the EA dated 01 June 2022, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 29 June 2022 and the acknowledgement email dated 07 July 2022, refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 12 April 2022 as amended, as follows:

#### **Amendment 1: Amendment to add the stipulation of export generation capacity limits in Megawatts ac (alternating current) from 150MW to 150MWac. The following is amended on the EA**

<b>Section to be amended on the EA</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b><u>The project description on page 1 (title) and page 2 (footer)</u></b>	<i>"The development of a <b>150MW</b> Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoorns 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in the Northwest Province."</i>	<i>"The development of a <b>150MWac</b> Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoorns 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in the Northwest Province."</i>

<b>Activity 1 (GNR 325), on page 4</b>	<i>"The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to <b>150 megawatts</b> electricity using a renewable resource."</i>	<i>The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to <b>150 megawatts alternating current</b> electricity using a renewable resource.</i>
<b>Activity description on page 7 of EA</b>	<i>"for the development of a 150MW Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the Northwest Province, hereafter referred to as the property."</i>	<i>for the development of a 150MWac Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the Northwest Province, hereafter referred to as the property"</i>
<b>Key Infrastructure on page 7 of EA</b>	<i>"PV Panel Array – To produce up to 150MW, the proposed facility will require numerous linked cells placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a panel. Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will be tilted at a northern angle in order to capture the most sun."</i>	<i>"PV Panel Array – To produce up to 150MWac, the proposed facility will require numerous linked cells placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a panel. Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will be tilted at a northern angle in order to capture the most sun."</i>
<b>Condition 1, on page 8 of the EA</b>	<i>"The development of a 150MW Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the North West Province, is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above."</i>	<i>"The development of a 150MWac Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the North West Province, is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above."</i>

**Reason for amendment:**

This amendment is only for clarity on the export generation capacity and to avoid confusion with the installed capacity of the facility.

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**Amendment 2: Stipulation of installed capacity limits in Megawatts dc (direct current)**

The amendment is for the stipulation of installed capacity limits in Megawatts dc (direct current). There will be no increase in the total export capacity as approved, however the maximum installed dc capacity is now specified and limited to up to 230MWdc. The development footprint, dimensions and generation capacity authorised will remain unchanged. The total export generation capacity of the facility will remain at 150MWac. However, the installed dc capacity will be up to 230MWdc. The following bullets should be amended in the original EA (14/12/16/3/3/2/2083):

<b>Section to be amended on the EA</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Page 7 (EA): The key infrastructure description bullet 3	<i>“Connection to the grid – Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 132kV. An onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid. Whilst Boitumelo Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has not yet received a cost estimate letter from ESKOM, it is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the existing Watershed 275/132/88 MTS Substation. The Project will inject up to 100MW into the national grid. <b>The installed capacity will be approximately 150MW.</b></i>	<i>“Connection to the grid – Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 132kV. An onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid. Whilst Boitumelo Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has not yet received a cost estimate letter from ESKOM, it is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the existing Watershed 275/132/88 MTS Substation. The Project will inject up to 100MW into the national grid. <b>The installed capacity will be approximately 230MWdc</b></i>

**Reason for amendment:**

More efficient PV panels will be installed for the PV facility. These panels will have the same dimensions as authorised but will be able to produce higher dc output. The total export generation capacity of the facility will remain at 150MWac. However, the installed dc capacity will be up to 230MWdc. There will be no increase in the total export capacity as approved, however the maximum installed dc capacity is now specified and limited up to 230MWdc.

**Amendment 3: Rewording of the descriptions in the EA used for the capacity of the on-site substation, switching station and collector substation:**

The amendment is for the removal of the reference to the MVA values for the on-site substation, switching station and collector substation. The following bullets should be amended in the original EA (14/12/16/3/3/2/2083):

<b>Section to be amended on the EA</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b><u>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2012- Activity 11(i))</u></b>	<i>“The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity of 132 kilovolts outside an urban area. The infrastructure for the distribution of electricity will include a power line (132 kV) and an on-site <b>HV/MV substation (130 MVA)</b>. For the preferred power line corridor, the power line will be constructed in a ~8.17km long and 100 m wide corridor. It is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the Eskom Watershed 275/132/88 MTS substation.”</i>	<i>“The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity of 132 kilovolts outside an urban area. The infrastructure for the distribution of electricity will include a power line (132 kV) and an on-site <b>HV/MV substation</b>. For the preferred power line corridor, the power line will be constructed in a ~8.17km long and 100 m wide corridor. It is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the Eskom Watershed 275/132/88 MTS substation.”</i>

**Reason for amendment:**

This amendment is only for clarity and to avoid confusion. MVA values are not relevant in terms of any of the listed activity thresholds and should therefore be removed.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 12 April 2022 as amended.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013) which stipulates that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:**

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: [appeals@dfre.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfre.gov.za)

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko,  
Arcadia,  
Pretoria,  
0083

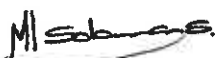
or

By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria,  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation, or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at [https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@dfre.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfre.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Ms Millicent Solomons**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**  
Date: 28/07/2022.

cc:	Christia van Dyk	Environamics	<a href="mailto:christia@environamics.co.za">christia@environamics.co.za</a>
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Enquiries: Devínagio Bendeman Telephone: 012 398 9337 E-mail: [vbendeman@dffe.gov.za](mailto:vbendeman@dffe.gov.za)

Ms. Milicent Solomons  
Director: Prioritized Infrastructure Projects

Dear Mrs Solomons

**APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD OF 25 APRIL 2022 UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2022**

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as the Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations for the period of 25 April to 31 October 2022 whilst Mr Sabelo Malaza is fulfilling his temporary reassignment function at the Forestry Branch.

All the correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1996), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standard, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of these legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of Departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance on behalf of the department.

Yours sincerely

Ms Devínagio Bendeman  
Deputy Director-General: RCSM (Regulatory Compliance and  
Sector Monitoring)

Date 20 April 2022

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~  
appointment as Acting Chief  
Director: Integrated Environmental  
Authorizations

Signed:

Date:

20/04/2022